

HONORING MS. GERLINE “PANKY
GARVIN” MUHAMMAD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Black historical figures in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. So today, I give honor to Ms. Gerline “Panky Garvin” Muhammad of the Blue Cane Community outside of Charleston, Mississippi located in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi.

Ms. Muhammad was born November 9, 1953. She is the mother of six children, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She attended Allen Carver High School in Charleston and is a graduate of Amhurst Career Center, where she was honored with many awards and recognitions.

Ms. Muhammad is a well-known champion of equal and civil rights. She was a member of the Tallahatchie County Redistricting Committee allowing for the first African American to be elected to the Tallahatchie County Board of

Supervisors. Ms. Muhammad is the executive director of the Tallahatchie County Citizens of Change. The organization is established to stimulate and motivate change in thinking and behavior within African Americans in communities of Tallahatchie County. Their work is carried out through an intergenerational model approach that works on improving political awareness, community organizing, assisting veterans, legal redress, civic participation and more. Ms. Muhammad is also a member of the Tallahatchie County Branch of the NAACP where she served as the first vice-president, chairman of the education committee, and now as the chairman of the membership committee.

Ms. Muhammad has been involved in many long-term community commitments in the county. She teaches at the summer tutoring program, hosts back to school rallies, organizes door to door community events, and helps veterans pursue their veteran benefits. She started the P16 Council for the East Tallahatchie School District and is a member of the Dropout Prevention Committee for the school district. To encourage reading among African Americans, she started a book club in

the Brooksville community. She works with young entrepreneurs in the community to help improve the future presence of African American business in Black communities.

Ms. Muhammad is a former member of the Jerusalem M.B. Church in Paynes, MS where she was the church secretary, Jr. Sunday School teacher, chairman of vocational bible school and church programs committee, and treasurer for the choir. In 1992, Ms. Muhammad joined the Nation of Islam under the local leadership of Minister James Muhammad and national leader, the most honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. She served as the LT Captain of the Meetings, and received LT Captain of the year at mosque Number 78 Tupelo, MS. Now she is the Chairman of 10,000 Fearless, which is a justice movement in Tallahatchie County. As you can see Ms. Muhammad has been active in and around Tallahatchie County working fearlessly and consistently for 46 years to foster change and equality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Gerline “Panky Garvin” Muhammad of the Mississippi Second Congressional District.